ANAMALAI-CHALAKKUDI ROAD—INVESTIGATION—EXPENDITURE REGARDING.

73. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar: Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) the amount spent for the investigation of the proposed Anamalai-Chalakkudi road ;

(*b*) why it was dropped ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon:

(*a*) Rs. 11,284—13—0.

(*b*) The hon'ble member is referred to the portion dealing with this subject in the Diwan's opening speech.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar: If I remember right it was said that there will be no other income, there will be nobody to guarantee income and so it was abandoned. So, may I know why it was not ascertained whether there will be anybody to guarantee this income before beginning the investigation?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon: Sir, the original idea was, Government might construct this road on condition that the Anamalai Planters to whom it is useful and only useful would bear the cost of maintenance and interest on the capital invested. The Anamalai's planters were generally agreeable to this proposition. And to know exactly what the cost of construction will be a survey was ordered and after the survey has been completed and the actual estimates prepared it was thought that 30 thousand rupees will be required as the interest charges and 25 thousand rupees for maintenance, and the Planters were offered the conditions that this road will be constructed provided they will guarantee a sum of Rs. 55 thousand every year for 7 years and that they will in addition be given the privilege of having tolls on the Road. After considerable discussion they expressed their inability to guarantee this amount on these terms.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar: Were not these terms discussed before the actual investigation was commenced?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon: It was necessary to find out what exactly the cost of construction will be.

Mr. Shabdai S. Koder: Have they put in counter terms?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon: No.

Mr. V. J. Mathai: Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Travancore Government is going to open a road?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon: We have no information.

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Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty: May I know for what purpose the amount was spent?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon: Only the cost of survey. It includes the pay of the staff and the coolies who were employed for the work there.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan: Was anybody from outside got down to make the investigation?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon: No.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar: Was it at the request of the Planters that the scheme itself was investigated?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon: It was not definitely at the request of the planters. They also suggested that they also would go into the question if they could divert their traffic through this road if this road is constructed.

Mr. V. J. Mathai: May I know, Sir, where the produce from the Anamalai Hills is being exported now?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon: Now it goes to Pollachi and from there to Tuticorin.

Mr. V. J. Mathai: Do not the Government think that it is advisable to open the road without waiting for the guarantee?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon: Government considered. This road will be only useful for the Anamalai Planters. Therefore the Government did not think it worthwhile to spend 8 lakhs on the construction of this road without any guarantee from them.

Mr. V. J. Mathai: The hon'ble member has not understood my question. My question was whether there will not be a lot of indirect income to the Government by way of customs and other duties by the diversion of the traffic from Tuticorin to this State through the Cochin Port.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon: But unless the Company does not try to divert their traffic to this road we cannot expect any indirect income. For that we require guarantees.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni: May I know whether there was any understanding with regard to the expenses of investigation before the investigation commenced between the Cochin Government and the Planters?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon: No.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni: May I know why the Government commenced investigation without coming to some sort of agreement in regard to this matter? Is not the full amount of Rs.11,284 incurred by the Government a sheer loss so far as the Cochin Government is concerned?

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Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon: Government thought that this project was so useful to the State that the expenditure of 11 thousand rupees on the survey was perfectly justified and further it must also be understood that even in our own hydro-electric scheme 15 miles of this road will be useful or in any case this expenditure will not be an eventual waste.

Mr. V. J. Mathai: May I know, Sir, the route by which the road was proposed?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon: The beginning of the road on this line will—it will start from Echipara, reach Adirapilly and Poringalkuthu and finally end in the Malakaparai Estate.

Mr. V. J. Mathai: May I know whether Malakaparai Estate is in Cochin State?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon: Yes. A portion is in Cochin State.

Mr. V. J. Mathai: May I know further as to whether there are any applications for opening new plantations at Malakaparai?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon: There are applications for small plots of land. They are applications from people residing on the frontiers on the British side.

Mr. V. J. Mathai: May I know, further, Sir, as to whether the plots by the side of the proposed road are not very useful for cardamom plantations.

Mr. T. Narayana Menon: Some portions of it may be; but not all.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar: Will not the opening of this road serve the purpose which is now served by the Tram?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon: It goes by a different route altogether.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar: Both reaches Anamalais?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon: As you know tramway has after all got only one way traffic. In Anamalai plantations there is as much traffic going up as there is traffic coming down and Tramway may not be able to handle this traffic.

CHALAKKUDI—KADUKUTTI ROAD—REPAIRS TO.

74. Mr. M. K. Devassy: Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) whether the Chalakkudi-Kadukutti road has been repaired for the last three years;

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